

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A device for a reverse vending machine for bottles and cans comprising a cover (14), for a front portion of the reverse vending machine (16, 18), said front cover having a feed opening (22) accessible from the outside and through which bottles and cans are inserted into the reverse vending machine, said cover being formed to
5 be secured independently of an internal bottle-/can-handling device and other apparatus (16, 18) of the reverse vending machine such that the reverse vending machine is operable with the cover removed, wherein the feed opening (22) of the front cover (14), for bottles and cans is without a fixed connection to pipework within the reverse vending machine (16, 18) and wherein adjacent said feed opening (22) in the front cover (14) is provided a drain
10 opening (26) through the front cover formed as a bowl that is upwardly open to receive and drain away remnants from bottles or cans before the bottles or cans are inserted into the reverse vending machine (16, 18) through the feed opening (22) of the front cover (14) and an opening (20) positioned within the internal bottle-/can-handling device of the reverse vending machine that corresponds to the feed opening (22) of the front cover (14), the bowl,
15 at a rear side of the front cover (14), ending in a drain pipe socket (28).

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (currently amended): A device according to claim-~~2~~ 1, wherein within the front cover (14), below an outlet opening of the drain pipe socket (28) is arranged a drain channel (30).

Claim 4 (previously presented): A device according to claim 3, wherein the drain channel (30) has a generally horizontal extent and is connected to an outlet (32).

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Claim 5 (previously presented): A device according to claim 3 wherein said drain channel is upwardly open.